



GRAIN TRANSPORTATION REPORT

Agricultural Marketing Service
United States Department of Agriculture



JANUARY 19, 1999

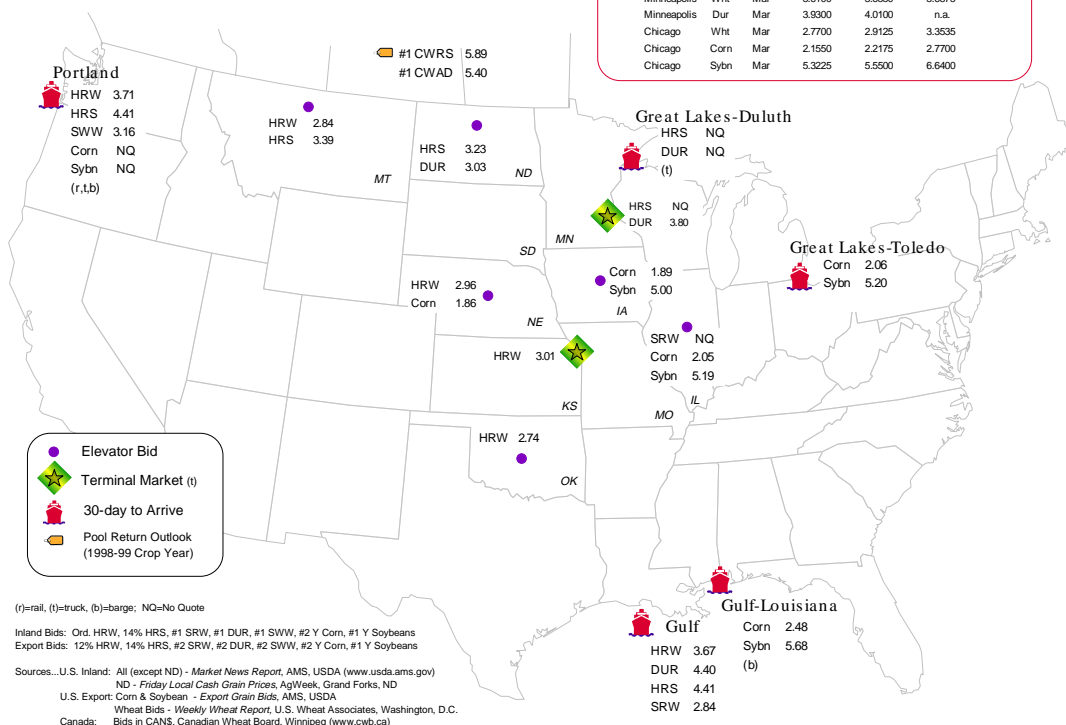
Upcoming Events...

Jan. 26-27	American Assoc. of Port Authorities (AAPA) Gov't Relations Conference	Washington, DC	703-684-5700 (ph) 703-684-6321 (fax) info@aapa-ports.org
Feb. 7-10	U.S. Grains Council 39th Annual Membership Mtg. and Intl. Value-Enhanced Grain Conf. and Trade Show	Orlando, FL	202-789-0789 (ph) 202-898-0522 (fax) grains@grains.org
Feb. 8-10	Ag. Equipment Technology Conference '99	Louisville, KY	616-429-0300 (ph)
Feb. 9	USDA & Ag OTC Shipping Act Workshops	San Diego, CA	202-467-8380 (ph)
Feb. 18-20	National Corn Growers Association/ American Soybean Assoc. Convention	Albuquerque, NM	417-232-4999 (ph) corninfo@ncga.com
Feb. 22-23	USDA 75 th Agricultural Outlook Forum	Washington, DC	202-314-3462 (ph) 202-479-6801 (fax) www.usda.gov/agency/oce/ waob/agforum.htm
March 2	USDA & Ag. OTC Shipping Act	Atlanta, GA	202-467-8380 (ph)
March 18	USDA & Ag. OTC Shipping Act	Vero Beach, FL	202-467-8380 (ph)
Mar. 21-23	National Grain & Feed Annual Convention	San Francisco, CA	202-289-0873 (ph) 202-289-5388 (fax) www.ngfa@ngfa.org
Mar. 22-24	AAPA Spring Conference	Washington, DC	703-684-5700 (ph) 703-684-6321 (fax) info@aapa-ports.org
May 12-14	International Navigation Association (PIANC) Annual Meeting	Memphis, TN	703-428-6286 Mary Jane Robertson

This report is prepared by Karl Hacker and Karla Martin, Agricultural Economists, Transportation & Marketing, Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA (202) 690-1304. Report design by Kimberly Vachal, formerly of the Upper Great Plains Transportation Institute, North Dakota State University. You can retrieve this document from our Automatic Fax System by using the handset on your fax machine and dialing (202) 690-1707. This report can be found on the Internet at www.ams.usda.gov/tmd/grain.htm. E-mail comments to Nick_Marathon@USDA.gov.

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Futures:				Week Ago	Year Ago
			01/15/99	01/08/99	01/16/98
Kansas City	Wht	Mar	3.1450	3.2575	3.4500
Minneapolis	Wht	Mar	3.6100	3.6550	3.6875
Minneapolis	Dur	Mar	3.8300	4.0100	
Chicago	Wht	Mar	2.7700	2.9125	3.3535
Chicago	Corn	Mar	2.1550	2.2175	2.7700
Chicago	Soyb	Mar	5.3225	5.5500	6.6400



See the Grain Trax page at www.ugpti.org for more graphs of rail premiums.

Index - Percent of Tariff Rate

Straight Lines Indicate 3-yr Avg
Weekly Movement based on 4-Week Running Avg.

Date	Index - Percent of Tariff Rate
10/10/96	260
01/13/97	290
03/13/96	230
05/15/96	120
07/17/96	100
09/18/96	170
11/20/96	150
01/22/97	210
03/26/97	150
05/28/97	100
07/30/97	100
10/01/97	240
12/03/97	140
02/04/98	110
04/08/98	120
06/10/98	160
08/12/98	170
10/14/98	310
10/16/98	130

Rail Car 'Auction' Offerings				
Delivery for:	Jan-99		Mar-99	
	<u>Offered</u>	<u>% Sold</u>	<u>Offered</u>	<u>% Sold</u>
BNSF-COT	5,303	55%	5,764	6%
UP-GCAS	5,000	24%	5,000	10%
Source: Transportation & Marketing /AMS/USDA; www.bnsf.com; www.uprr.com				

Secondary Rail Car Market

Average Premium/Discount to Tariff, \$/Car - Last Week

	Delivery Period			
	Jan-99	Feb-99	Mar-99	Apr-99
BNSF-GF	\$0	\$(84)	\$(72)	\$(78)
CP-GEEP	\$(15)	\$(23)	\$(25)	\$(2)
UP-Pool	\$0	\$(10)	\$(6)	\$(4)

Source: T&M/AMS/USDA. Data from Atwood/ConAgra., Harvest States Co-op, James B. Joiner Co., Tradewest Brokerage Co.;

GF=Guaranteed Freight, GEEP=Guaranteed Eqpt. Exchange, Pool=Guaranteed Pool

note... bids listed are market INDICATORS only & are NOT guaranteed prices, missing value=No Bid Quoted

Railroad Car 'Auction' Results

Average Premium/Discount to Tariff, \$/Car - Last Auction

Delivery for:	Jan-99	Mar-99	Apr-99
COT/N. Grain	no offer	no offer	no offer
COT/S. Grain	no offer	no offer	no offer
GCAS/Region 2	\$4	no bid	no bid
GCAS/Region 4	\$1	no bid	no bid

Source: T&M/AMS/USDA. Data from www.bnsf.com, www.uprr.com, (COT=Certificate of Transportation; GCAS=Grain Car Allocation System)**Southbound Barge Freight Nominal Values***

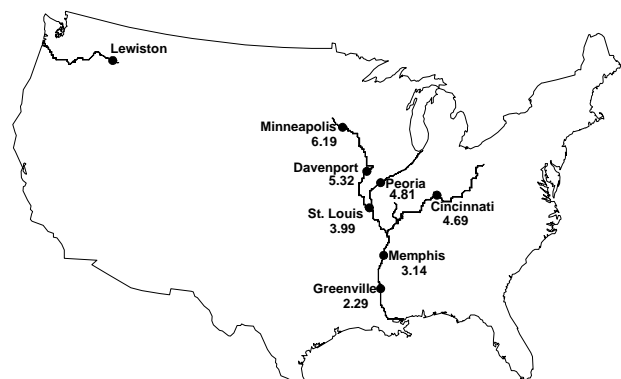
Index=Percent of Tariff, Based on 1976 Tariff Benchmark Rate

Week ended	River/Region	Contract Period	Rate
1/14/99	St. Louis	twk	115
		Oct.	195
	Lower Ohio River	twk	120
	Mid Mississippi	Sept.	180

Summary Of Daily Barge Trades Reported To St. Louis Merchants Exchange.

twk=this week
nwk=next week**Southbound Barge Freight Spot Rates**

	1/13/99	1/6/99	Feb. '98	Apr. '98
Twin Cities	nq	nq	nq	178
Mid-Mississippi	nq	nq	nq	147
Illinois River	187	221	155	137
St. Louis-Cairo	144	122	119	127
Lower Ohio	118	120	126	125
Cairo-Memphis	100	103	106	110

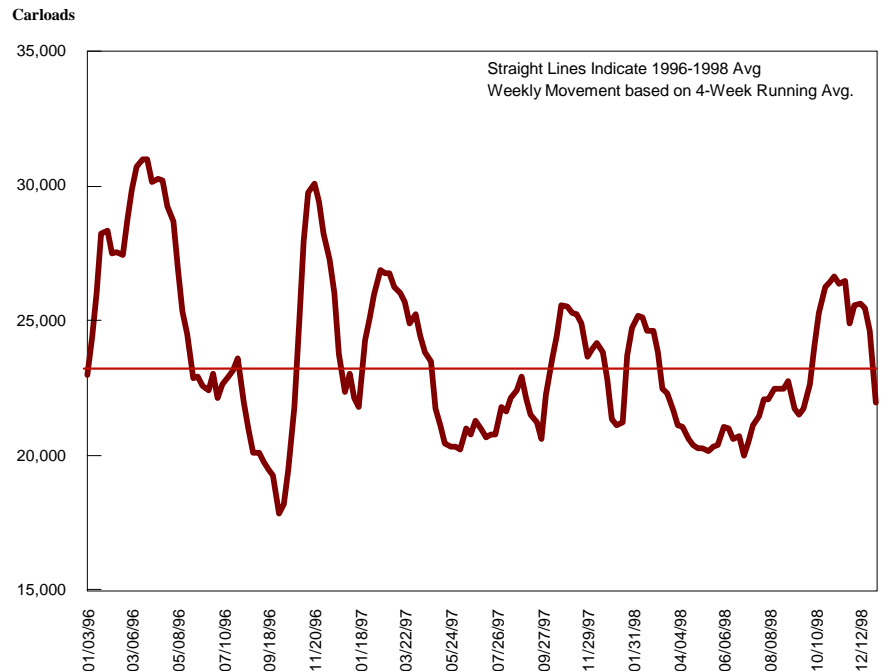
Source: Transportation & Marketing /AMS/USDA
nq- no quote**Barge Benchmark Tariff Rates
Est. 1976 - 'Tariff No. 7'**

Grain Car Loadings for Class I Railroads

Class I Railroad Grain Car Loadings	
Week Ending:	Carloads
12/26/98	17,572
01/02/99	17,994
01/09/99	22,427
Year to Date - 1999	22,427
Year to Date - 1998**	24,741
Total 1998**	1,183,860
Total 1997*	1,199,995
Source: American Association of Railroads	

**1998 - 52 weeks

* 1997 - 53 weeks



Class I Rail Carrier Grain Car Bulletin

Carloads

	Conrail	CSXT	East		West			Canada	
			IC	NS	BNSF	KCS	UP	CN	CP
01/09/99	388	1,649	1,099	2,042	8,919	617	7,713	1,628	2,623
This Week Last Year	768	3,070	1,158	2,549	9,322	852	7,022	2,947	4,094
1999 YTD	388	1,649	1,099	2,042	8,919	617	7,713	1,628	2,623
1998 YTD*	768	3,070	1,158	2,549	9,322	852	7,022	2,947	4,094
1997 Total**	29,834	118,581	80,255	124,834	428,243	34,690	378,888	171,428	272,156
1996 Total	31,733	111,509	48,695	131,568	432,687	30,009	439,865	129,714	181,387

Source: American Association of Railroads

**1998 - 52 weeks

* 1997 - 53 weeks

Tariff Rail Rates for Unit Train Shipments

January 1999

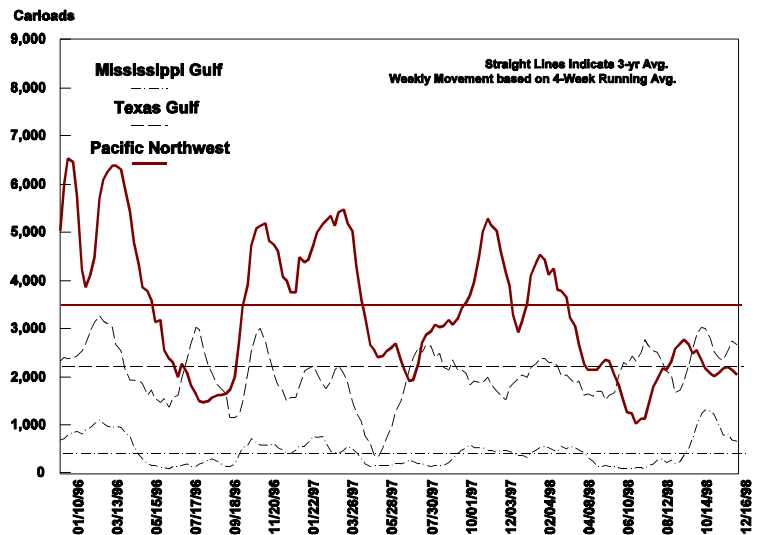
Date Effective	Tariff Item	Commodity	Origin	Destination	Rate Per Car	Rate Per MT	Rate/Per Bushel*
12/01/98	45560	Wheat	Minneapolis, MN	Houston, TX	\$2,150	\$19.51	\$0.65
12/01/98	43521	Wheat	Minneapolis, MN	Portland, OR	\$4,235	\$38.43	\$1.27
12/01/98	46540	Wheat	Kansas City, MO	Houston, TX	\$1,850	\$16.79	\$0.56
12/01/98	43586	Wheat	Kansas City, MO	Portland, OR	\$4,226	\$38.35	\$1.27
12/01/98	43581	Wheat	Omaha, NE	Portland, OR	\$4,205	\$38.16	\$1.26
12/01/98	31040	Corn	Minneapolis, MN	Portland, OR	\$2,865	\$22.87	\$0.80
12/01/98	31035	Corn	Kansas City, MO	Portland, OR	\$3,100	\$24.74	\$0.87
12/01/98	31040	Corn	Omaha, NE	Portland, OR	\$2,485	\$19.83	\$0.70
12/01/98	61180	Soybean	Minneapolis, MN	Portland, OR	\$3,330	\$30.22	\$1.00
12/01/98	61180	Soybean	Omaha, NE	Portland, OR	\$3,030	\$27.50	\$0.91
05/01/98	61180	Soybean	Omaha, NE	Portland, OR	\$2,780	\$25.23	\$0.83

Source: www.bnsf.com

Approximate load per car = 100 tons: Corn 56 lbs/bu, Wheat & Soybeans 60 lbs/bu

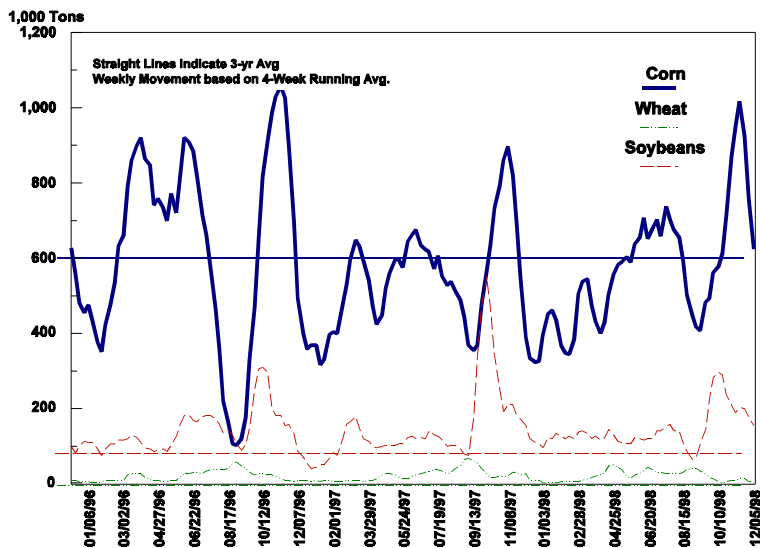
Rail Deliveries to Port Carloads				
	Mississippi Gulf	Texas Gulf	Pacific Northwest	Atlantic & East Gulf
Week Ending:				
12/02/98	462	2,216	2,987	72
12/09/98	669	2,689	3,402	466
12/16/98	1,128	3,052	3,038	622
12/23/98	464	2,992	2,850	545
12/30/98	422	1,939	2,258	148
01/06/99	442	2,740	2,641	53
YTD 1999	442	2,740	2,641	53
YTD 1998	285	1,779	2,660	23
Total 1998	23,844	115,321	138,461	12,505
Total 1997	20,152	93,265	195,953	9,147
Source: Transportation & Marketing/AMS/USDA				

Rail Deliveries to Port



***Note:** Data prior to 12/30/98 has been revised. More recent data has been estimated.

Barge Movements - Locks 27



Barge Grain Movements

for week ending 01/09/99

	Corn	Wht	Sybn	Total
	1,000 Tons			
Mississippi River				
Rock Island, IL (L15)	0	0	0	0
Winfield, MO (L25)	0	0	0	0
Alton, IL (L26)	224	3	31	258
Granite City, IL (L27)	133	2	34	169
Illinois River (L8)	219	3	39	261
Ohio (L52)	44	58	28	207
Arkansas (L1)	0	33	6	39
1999 YTD	328	6	122	507
1998 YTD	321	16	87	508
Total 1998	31,226	2,420	8,866	45,625
Total 1997	29,685	2,689	9,584	45,315

Miss YTD: Calendar year totals include Miss/27, Ohio/52 and Ark/1.

Source: U.S. Army Corp of Engineers

U.S. Export Balances* (1,000 Metric Tons)

	<i>HRW</i>	<i>SRW</i>	<i>HRS</i>	<u>Wheat</u> <i>SWW</i>	<i>DUR</i>	<i>All</i>	<u>Corn</u>	<u>Soybean</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>Unshipped Exports-Crop Year</u>									
12/31/98	1,461	154	895	541	228	3,278	7,811	4,231	15,320
This Week Year Ago	1,636	747	834	735	210	4,161	6,494	5,081	15,736
<u>Cumulative Exports-Crop Year</u>									
98/99 YTD	6,541	1,282	4,112	3,726	482	16,143	15,513	9,928	41,584
97/98 YTD	5,979	3,621	3,911	3,521	865	17,896	12,757	13,476	44,129
96/97 Total	2,595	1,643	1,432	1,240	361	7,271	43,991	24,273	75,535
95/96 Total	9,867	6,792	8,918	6,443	897	32,917	55,769	23,550	112,236

Source: Foreign Agricultural Service YTD-Year-to-Date (fas.usda.gov) Crop Year: Wheat=5/31-6/01, Corn & Soybeans=9/01-8/31

Select U.S. Port Regions - Grain Inspections for Export - 1,000 Metric Tons

	<u>Pacific Region</u>			<u>Mississippi Gulf</u>			<u>Texas Gulf</u>		
	<i>Wheat</i>	<i>Corn</i>	<i>Soybean</i>	<i>Wheat</i>	<i>Corn</i>	<i>Soybean</i>	<i>Wheat</i>	<i>Corn</i>	<i>Soybean</i>
01/14/99	216	112	0	101	698	472	178	0	96
1999 YTD	407	222	0	151	1,068	949	318	15	96
1998 YTD *	301	4,373	651	5,048	31,330	14,917	7,270	562	1,392
% of Last Year	53%	50%	0%	67%	65%	50%	56%	0%	100%
1998 Total	10,838	4,373	651	5,048	31,330	14,917	7,270	562	1,392

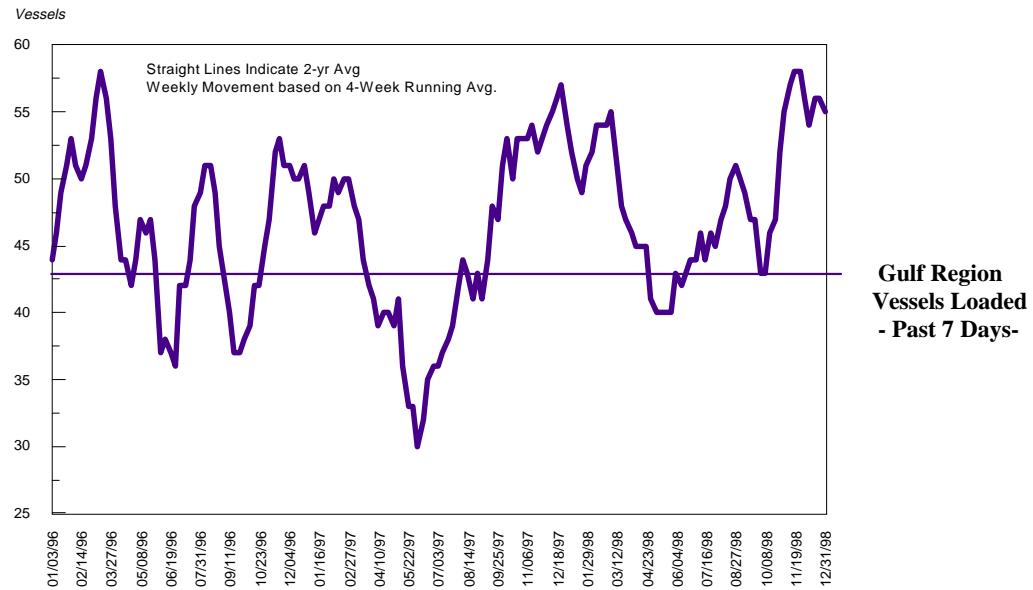
Source: Federal Grain Inspection Service * YTD-Year-to-Date ('98 = 53 week period)

Select Canadian Ports - Export Inspections

1,000 Metric Tons, Crop Year

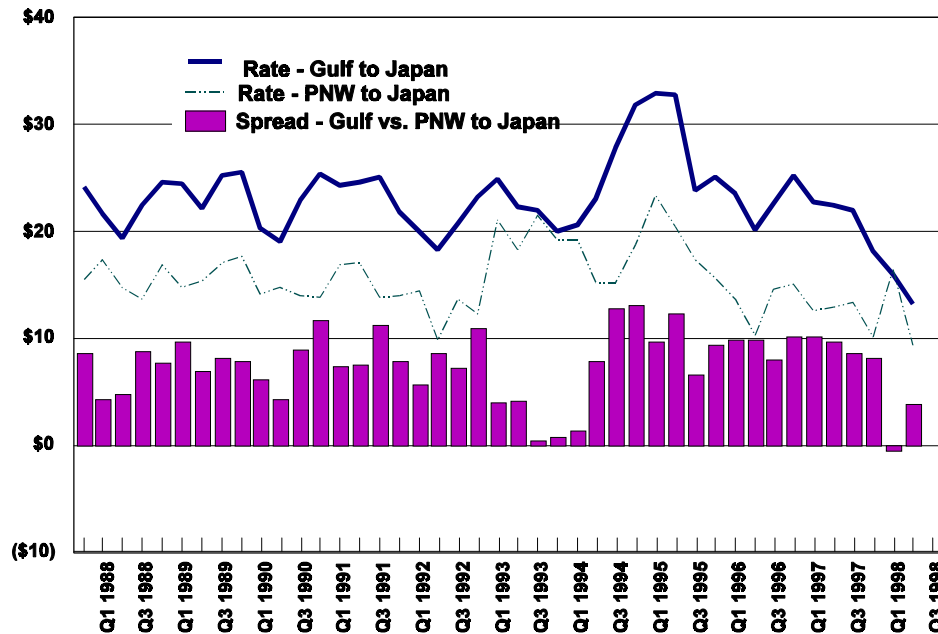
	<u>Wheat</u>	<u>Durum</u>	<u>Barley</u>
Week Ended: 01/14/99			
Vancouver	2,101	307	153
Prince Rupert	776	6	0
Prairie Direct	319	161	67
Thunder Bay	295	93	138
St. Lawrence	768	694	0
1998 YTD Exports	4,742	1,271	358
1997 YTD Exports	8,389	1,928	1,287
% of Last Year	57%	66%	28%

Source: Canadian Grains Commission *Year Ago-This Week a Year Ago ** YTD-Year-to-Date Crop Year 8/1-7/31



Port Region Ocean Grain Vessels									
	Gulf			Pacific Northwest			Vancouver, B.C.		
	In Port	Loaded 7-Days	Due Next 10-Days	In Port	Loaded 7-Days	Due Next 10-Days	In Port	Loaded 7-Days	Due Next 10-Days
01/07/99	41	41	76	11			16	8	7
01/14/99	36	53	67	14			18	13	3
1998 Range	(19..62)	(34..64)	(40..93)						
1997 Range	(11..52)	(25..61)	(31..89)						
1998 Avg	40	48	61						
1997 Avg	33	45	58						
1996 Avg	38	46	62						
Source: Transportation & Marketing /AMS/ USDA									

US\$/Metric Ton



Quarterly Ocean Freight Rates

Quarterly Ocean Freight Rates

Average Rates & Percentage Changes, U.S. Dollars/Metric Ton - Basis

	1998 3 rd Qtr	1997 3 rd Qtr	% Change		1998 3 rd Qtr	1997 3 rd Qtr	% Change
Gulf to				Pacific NW to			
Japan	\$13.17	\$22.55	-42%	Japan	\$9.35	\$12.92	-28%
Mexico	\$16.33	\$14.47	13%	Red Sea/ Arabian Sea		\$19.23	
Venezuela	\$10.30	\$13.78	-25%				
N. Europe	\$8.85	\$13.23	-33%	Argentina to			
N. Africa	\$13.87	\$15.44	-10%	N. Europe	\$12.15	\$14.83	-18%
				Japan	\$16.21	\$25.56	-37%

Source: Transportation & Marketing/AMS/USDA

Ocean Freight Rates (Select Locations) - week ending 01/16/99

Export Region	Import Region	Grain	Month	Volume Loaded (Tons)	Freight Rate (\$/Ton)
Baie Comeau (Quebec, Canada)	Continent (Europe)	Heavy Grain	January	55,000	\$6.75
River Plate	Continent (Europe)	Grains	January	42,000/45,000	\$11.50
River Plate	Lisbon/Hamburg	Grains	January	30,000	\$14.25
Gulf	North Spain 2 Pts	Heavy Grain	January	55,000	\$9.00
Gulf	Algeria	Heavy Grain	January	25,000	\$15.65
Gulf	Indonesia	Heavy Grain	January	27,000	\$20.50
Gulf	South Korea	Heavy Grain	January	53,000	\$13.25
South Brazil	Portugal	Grains	Prompt	30,000	\$11.25
River Plate	Spain	Grains	January	40,000	\$11.50

Source: Maritime Research Inc.